GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
VISIT OF NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal visited New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed with him;

(c) the details of the agreements or MOUs signed during his visit including the terms thereof ;

(d) whether the issue of increasing the trade volume between the two countries was also taken up; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 346 TO BE ANSWERI 17.04.2002 ON `VISIT OF NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER TO INDIA`

His Excellency Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official good will visit to India from March 20-25, 2002 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India.During the visit, PM Deuba called on the President and Vice President and held talks with the Prime Minister. The Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, Defence Minister, Commerce and Industries Minister, Human Resource Development Minister and Water Resources Minister called on the Nepalese Prime MinisterPM Deuba attended a business meeting organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries. He also visited Kolkata where he met the Governor and Chief Minister of West Bengal.The discussions were friendly and cordial, in keeping with the close relations between India and Nepal.

2. The discussions held during PM Deuba`s visit focused on issues relating to terrorism and bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Both Prime Ministers reiterated the determination of the two countries to work closely in fighting the scourge of terrorism which was adversely affecting peace and stability in the region as also impeding socio-economic development. The Prime Ministers renewed the commitment of the two countries not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities inimical to the interest of the other. In pursuance of their shared objective of combating terrorism and cross-border crimes, the two Governments agreed to intensify their ongoing cooperation and to continue working closely with each other.

3. As regards trade and economic co-operation, the two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful renewal of the India-Nepal Trade Treaty for a period of five years till March 5, 2007 with mutually agreed amendments to the Protocol to the Treaty without changing its basic framework.

4. On the Pancheshwar Hydel Project, the two Prime Ministers noted that considerable work had been done on the field investigations for the Joint DPR. They agreed that all out efforts should be made to complete a Joint DPR before June this year.

5. An Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology was also signed during the visit..

6. The Nepalese Prime Minister invited the Prime Minister to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The invitation was accepted. Dates of the visit would be decided through diplomatic channels.